

## Discovery of the Subfamily Coloninae (Coleoptera, Leiodidae) from the Ryukyus, Japan, with Description of a New Species

Hideto HOSHINA

Department of Regional Environment, Faculty of Education & Regional Studies,  
Fukui University, Fukui, 910–8507 Japan

**Abstract** One specimen belonging to the subfamily Coloninae was discovered from the Ryukyus for the first time. A new species, *Colon (Myloechus) tametomoi* sp. nov., is described based on that specimen. As a result of the description of this new species, the Japanese species of *Colon* become seven in number.

The subfamily Coloninae of the family Leiodidae is composed of two genera, *Colon* HERBST, 1797 and *Colonellus* SZYMCAKOWSKI, 1964, and includes 140 known species in the world (SZYMCAKOWSKI, 1964; NEWTON, 1998; PECK, 1997, 1999). The genus *Colonellus* has only four species recorded from the Oriental Region (SZYMCAKOWSKI, 1964, 1972; PECK, 1997), and most species of the Coloninae belong to the genus *Colon*.

In East Asia excluding Japan, seven species of the genus *Colon* have been recorded from Mongolia and China (SCHWEIGER, 1960; SZYMCAKOWSKI, 1964, 1971, 1981). In Japan, HISAMATSU (1970) recorded *Colon* for the first time from Honshu, with description of one species, *C. (Myloechus) japonicum*. Later, NAKANE (1982) and HISAMATSU (1985) described three and one species, respectively, and NISHIKAWA (1988) recorded one known species, *C. (M.) appendiculatum* (SAHLBERG, 1834), from Japan. As the result, six species of *Colon* have been known to occur in Japan. However, all of them were collected from Honshu, Shikoku and Kyushu, and none from the Ryukyus.

Recently, I examined the Ryukyuan beetles collected by Mr. H. MAKIHARA, and found one male specimen of *Colon* belonging to a new member of this genus. Therefore, I will describe it in this paper as a new species, under the name *Colon (Myloechus) tametomoi* sp. nov.

The holotype used in this study is deposited in the collections of the Museum of Nature and Human Activities, Hyôgo (MNHA). The terminology of the aedeagus follows that of PECK and STEPHAN (1996).

Before entering into the text, I acknowledge my indebtedness to Mr. Hiroshi MAKIHARA (Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute, Japan) for his kind cooperation in offering the specimen for the present study.

***Colon (Myloechus) tametomoi* HOSHINA, sp. nov.**

[Japanese name: Amami-higebuto-chibishidemushi]

(Figs. 1–7)

Male. Coloration:—Pronotum and elytra dark brown; head a little darker than pronotum; neck black; coxae, trochanter and femora dark reddish-brown; tibiae and tarsi reddish brown; meso-metasterna a little lighter than coxae; venter reddish brown; 1st–2nd segments of antennae brown; 3rd to 10th segments reddish brown; 11th segment a little lighter than 10th.

Measurements of holotype:—Body 4.0 mm in length and 1.8 mm in width; head 0.68 mm in length (excluding the length of mandibles); pronotum 1.2 mm in length and 1.7 mm in width; elytra 2.4 mm in length and 1.8 mm in width.

Body about 2.2 times as long as wide (Fig. 1), with dense and yellowish pubescence on dorsum.

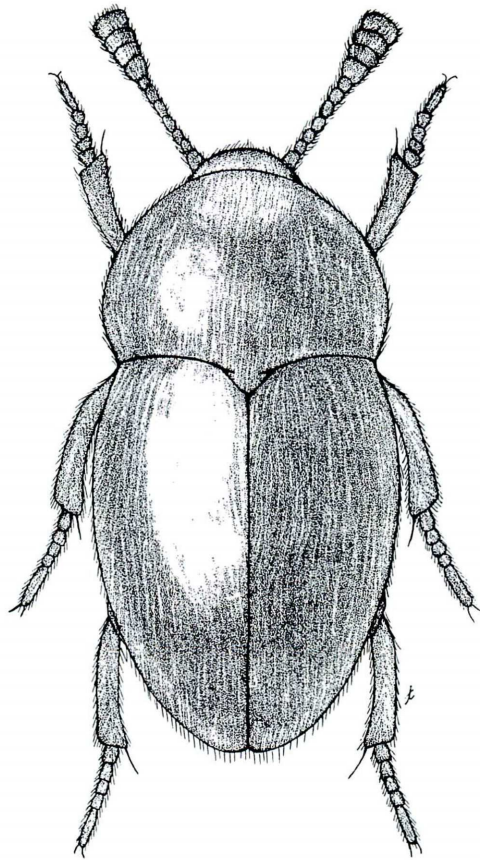


Fig. 1. Habitus of *Colon (Myloechus) tametomoi* sp. nov.

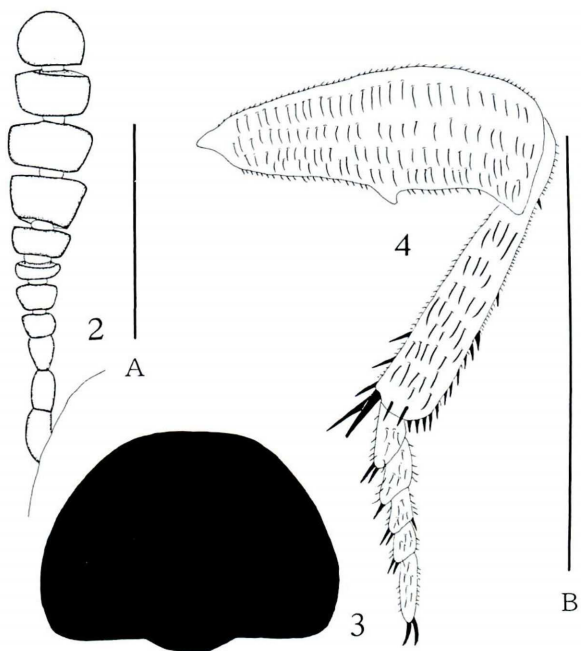
Head with punctures sparser and more minuter than those of pronotum; clypeus almost straight on anterior margin; antennae 1.1 mm in length; 1st–3rd segments of antennae longer than wide and other segments wider than long (Fig. 2); relative lengths of segments from 2nd to 11th as follows:— 1.7: 1.5: 1.0: 1.2: 0.70: 1.2: 2.0: 2.0: 1.8: 2.3; relative widths of segments from 2nd to 11th as follows: 1.0: 1.1: 1.4: 1.7: 1.8: 2.3: 3.2: 3.5: 3.1: 2.9; 11th segment hemispherical and rounded apically.

Pronotum widest at about basal fifth of lateral margins (Fig. 1), curved and narrowed towards apex along lateral margins from there, and simply rounded at posterolateral corners, slightly expanded posteriorly near scutellum (Fig. 3); punctures of pronotum dense and strongly impressed; prosternum pubescent, almost smooth and impunctate, with a pit near apical-external corner of each procoxa.

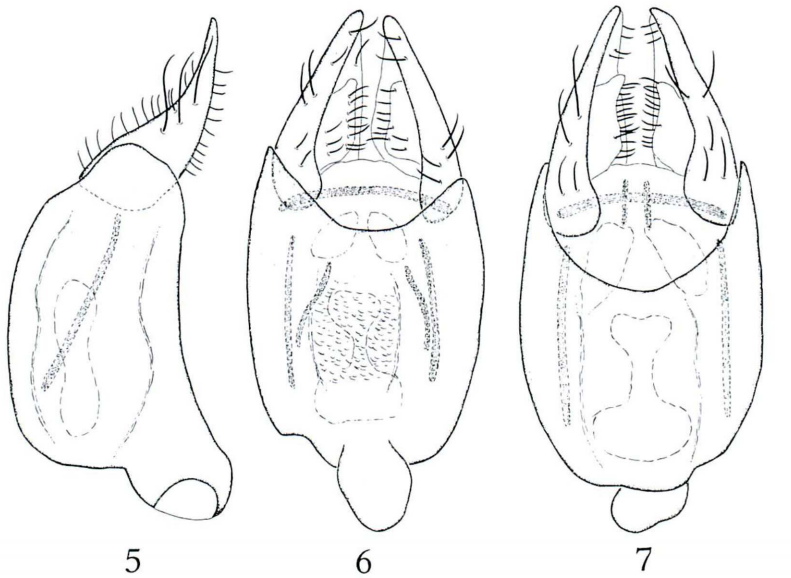
Elytra a littler wider than pronotum, widest at about basal fourth of lateral margins; punctures of elytra as those of pronotum; sutural stria distinct and feebly curved, its length about 0.75 times as long as elytra.

Mesosternum microreticulate and less pubescent; metasternum minutely punctate, densely pubescent and weakly microreticulate, convex in the middle area, but almost smooth, glabrous and impunctate near anterior margins of metacoxae; metepisternum flat, 0.15 mm in width.

Legs densely pubescent; front tibiae narrowed from the apex towards basal third along inner margins and almost straight from basal third towards the base along both



Figs. 2–4. *Colon (Myloechus) tametomoi* sp. nov.; 2, antennae; 3, pronotum; 4, hind legs. Scale A: 0.5 mm for Fig. 2. Scale B: 1 mm for Fig. 4.



Figs. 5–7. Aedeagus of *Colon (Myloechus) tametomoi* sp. nov.; 5, lateral view; 6, ventral view; 7, dorsal view. Scale: 0.5 mm.

lateral margins; middle and hind tibiae simply and feebly narrowed from the apex towards the base; hind femora each with two teeth along posterior margin at the apex and apical three-sevenths, respectively (Fig. 4); protarsi with basal three segments expanded.

Aedeagus about 0.86 mm in length and 0.42 mm in ventral and dorsal views (Figs. 5–7); basal bulb oval and simply and slightly curved along lateral margins in ventral and dorsal views; parameres sharply curved along dorsal margins and feebly curved along ventral margins, pointed apically in lateral view; inner blade of parameres pubescent finely and densely.

Female. Unknown.

*Distribution.* Japan: Ryukyus (Amami-Ōshima Is.).

*Type specimen.* Holotype: ♂, Mt. Yuwandake, Amami-Ōshima Is., Kagoshima Pref., 28–VI–1973, H. MAKIHARA leg. (MNHA).

*Remarks.* *Colon (Myloechus) tametomoi* sp. nov. is the first species of the genus in the Ryukyus and related to *C. (M.) hiraii* NAKANE, 1982, but can be distinguished by having the hind femur with two teeth along the posterior margin (Fig. 4), instead of one in *C. (M.) hiraii*. This new species is also similar to *C. (M.) repostum* SZYMCHAKOWSKI, 1981, but the body length is 4.0 mm, instead of 2.3 mm in the latter.

*Etymology.* This new species is named after the brave man, Tametomo MINAMOTO (1139–1177) who played an active part in the Ryukyus in the Japanese legend.



## 要 約

保科英人：タマキノコムシ科ヒゲブトチビシデムシ亜科の琉球からの発見と1新種の記載。——日本産ヒゲブトチビシデムシ亜科は、本州、四国、九州に6種を産することがこれまでに知られていた。本研究で、森林総合研究所・横原寛氏のコレクションの中に、奄美大島産ヒゲブトチビシデムシ1新種の♂標本が1頭発見された。そこで本稿にて、*Colon (Myloechus) tametomoi* sp. nov. (和名：アマミヒゲブトチビシデムシ)と命名して記載した。

## References

- HISAMATSU, S., 1970. A new Japanese species of Colonidae (Coleoptera). *Trans. Shikoku ent. Soc.*, Matsuyama, **10**: 3–4.
- 1985. Notes on some Japanese Coleoptera, I. *Ibid.*, **17**: 5–13.
- NAKANE, T., 1982. New or little known Coleoptera from Japan and its adjacent regions. XXXV *Rept. Fac. Sci. Kagoshima Univ.*, (Earth Sci. & Biol.), (15): 101–111.
- NEWTON, A. F., JR., 1998. Phylogenetic problems, current classification and generic catalog of world Leiodidae (including Cholevidae). *Mus. reg. Sci. nat., Atti, Torino*, **1998**: 41–178.
- NISHIKAWA, M., 1988. A new record of *Colon appendiculatum* (SAHLBERG) (Colonidae), found in a nest of *Formica japonica* MOTSCHULSKY, from Japan. *Coleopterists' News, Tokyo*, (83/84): 9–10. (In Japanese.)
- PECK, B. S., 1997. *Colonellus (Pentacolonnellus) gilli*, new subgenus and new species from India (Coleoptera: Leiodidae: Coloninae). *Elytron, Barcelona*, **11**: 63–70.
- 1999. A new species of *Colon* HERBST from Honduras (Coleoptera: Leiodidae: Coloninae). *Coleopt. Bull.*, **53**: 101–103.
- & K. STEPHAN, 1996. A revision of the genus *Colon* HERBST (Coleoptera; Leiodidae; Coloninae) of North America. *Canad. Entomol.*, **128**: 667–741.
- SCHWEIGER, H., 1960. *Colon* (s. str.) *sinense* n. sp. *Ent. Tidskr.*, **84**: 113.
- SZYMCZAKOWSKI, W., 1964. Révision des Colonidae (Coleoptera) des Regions orientale et australienne. *Acta zool. cracov.*, **9**: 469–527.
- 1971. Catopidae und Colonidae. Ergebnisse der zoologischen Forschungen Dr. Z. KASZAB in der Mongolei. *Ent. Bl.*, **67**: 47–61.
- 1972. Catopidae et Colonidae (Coleoptera) de Ceylan (Résultats du voyage entomologique du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle de Genève en 1970). *Acta zool. cracov.*, **17**: 163–191.
- 1981. Nouvelles espèces du genre *Colon* HERBST (Coleoptera, Colonidae). *Ibid.*, **25**: 405–416.